Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1868.

About Spain. The recent intelligence from Spain as to the recall of Espartero has revived some interest in Spanish history. It was only recently that we remarked how much more interesting history was than fiction, and could history be always written in the interesting and picturesque style of Michelet, Macaulay, Fronde, Hallam, and some others of the modern school, it ought to occasion as great a run at the various libraries as is continually being done for trashy novels. The history of nearly all countries would furnish tints for good historical painters. Spanish history has been particularly seized on by various writers of the school we have referred to. With Americans it seems to have been considerable of a favorite. Washington Irving, Mr. Prescott, and Mr. Ticknor have done much in the way of elucidating Spauish history. Such writers are too well known to be particularly referred to here.

A considerable discussion was raised at the hypothesis, put forth by the late Mr. Bukle, in his history of Civilization in England, that much of the superstitious element inherent in the Spanish character was owing to the fraquency of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in that country. Be that as it may, that such was the chief characteristic of the Spaniard, is notorious, and yet what a territory did the then monarchs rule over! Take the reign of Philip the Second. In Europe Philip ruled Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands on both sides of the Rhine, Franche Comp 6, Roussillon, the Milanese, and the two Sicilies. In Asia he possessed the Phillipines, and all the conquests which the Portuguese had made previously. In America his cominions extended on each side of the equator into the temperate zone. His power over Europe was greater than Napoleon's subsequently became.

But at the end of another century this greatness was gone. Spain had lost Holland, Portugal, Artois, Roussillon, and Franche Compté. But worse than the loss of territory, she had lost her commerce, from that miserable mismanagement which has continued almost ever since. So complete a picture is that period of what, as we have just remarked, has since been the condition of that unhappy country, that we cannot refrain from transcribing a most eloquent historian's account: - "Murders were committed in the face of day with perfect impunity. Bravoes and discarded serving-menwith swords at their sides, swaggered every squares of the capital, disturbing the public peace and setting at defiance the ministers of Justice." The finances were in frightful disorder. Our readers will doubtless remember that only very recently a London banking firm advanced a quarter of a million pounds sterling on account of a new loan offered in the London market, and it failed to be taken. the Spanish Government boldly pocketed this sum and gave the owners no redress.

Spanish history since that time is a continual record of weakness and bad government Napoleon attempted to destroy the old Bourbon Government, and when the French branch of that family were reinstated, France then sent a French army, under the Duke D'An. gonleme, to restore despotism and the Inquisition, which had temporarily been abrogated. What will be the future of that country? Will not the light of civilization be reflected into that benighted region? Mr. Buckle took a most desponding view. He says that, while even barbarous countries are improving, Spain sleeps on untroubled, unheeding, impassive, receiving no impressions from the rest of the world, and making no impressions upon it. She is proud in continuing everything of which she should be ashamed. She is proud of the antiquity of her opinions, proud of her orthodoxy, proud of the strength of her faith, proud of her immeasurable and childish credulity, proud of her unwillingness to amend either her creed or her customs, proud of her hatred of heretics, and proud of the uudying vigilance with which she has baffled their efforts to obtain a full and legal establishment on her soil.

This is, indeed, gloomy enough; but although education, among other things, has been backward enough in Spain, we can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that she is destined ever to remain in her present torpor. It seems scarcely possible that while progress is exercising such sway among, we may say, nearly all the nations of the earth, Spain should remain entirely isolated from its influence. Let us at least hope that the spirit of the age will make itself felt in that land so favored by nature, and so corrupted by man. With all due deference to the late Mr. Buckle's opinion on this point, we must be permitted to hope that he took too gloomy a view of some matters, and await yet the intelligence not buoyed too much with hope, of the introduction of free measures; even a free Constitution, which, of course, must be followed by one of the most powerful adjuncts of a free Constitution -a free press.

The Turf.

The racing season is over in England and New York, under the distinguished patronage of the blackleg Marquis of Hastings on the one hand, and the no less brilliant auspices of Mr. August Belmont on the other. And we must confess that if no means can be found for improving the morality of the turf in both countries, as well as restoring racing to its legiti-

mate object, the improvement of the breed of | year is completed, some directisaster will befull horses, it would be no loss to society were the system to terminate with the season. It now, indeed, approximates that of the ring, and the conduct of the members of the noted British Boxers' Beneficent Association is quite as respectable as that of most of the patrons of the modern turf. The very pretext about the breed of horses is now scouted as a delusion, and the whole system has become one of swindling, cheating, fraud, and chicanery.

It is impossible to exaggerate the evil effects which English horse-racing now has upon the community. For weeks before a great race, such as that of the Derby or St. Leger, comes off, sweeps or pools are established at every tavern and pot-house in Lon don, varying in amount from £1 to £1000. Servants are thus encouraged to plunder their masters, and apprentices to rob their employers' tills. Even the most degraded members of the community, including both sexes, contribute on these occasions; and the whole either goes into the pocket of the publican or his friends, into whose hands it is so arranged that the prizes shall fall, or that worthy refuses to pay on the ground that he cannot be forced by law, or finally-as happened in a noted case-that it is illegal, and his conscience will not permit him to part with the

But even if all goes well, and the best horse is brought to the post, it is almost the reverse of certain that he will win. "Tips" may be paid to any amount for previous information; but the owner may change the whole aspect of affairs in a moment, either by "scratching" his horse, or privately instructing his jockey to lose. The Marquis of Hastings openly did the former of these acts with one of his horses on the recent Derby, and he is strongly suspected of having been guilty of the other; though he himself accounts for the failure of "Lady Elizabeth," the first favorite, by alleging that she was drugged through the agency of one Charlin, the son of a wealthy railwaycarrier, whom he had jilted of a wife. This may have been true, but it only shows what sort of gentry these men are, and what crimes, in pursuit of their object, they will not hesitate to commit.

Again, if they lose, there is no certainty that their bets will be paid. The days when a man deliberately blew out his brains when he could not meet his engagements on the turf are now gone, and little discredit seems to attach to the name of "Levanter." Formerly this was an epithet which was considered to convey every species of opprobrium. But all this sensitiveness has now disappeared, especially from the upper ranks, and the Marquis of Hastings lately made his appearance upon the turf though he has notoriously for two years been insolvent or paid up only ten per cent. of his recent losses, while a "Weesher," or Greek in humbler life, received a proper beating or "bonnetting," in the shape of being dreadfully mauled and having the clothes torn from his person, with the view of proving that, if day through the most public streets and honor had forsaken the breasts of the higher circles, it still found shelter in the inferior ranks of men. The Duke of Hamilton and the Earl of Jersey have been equally ruined by horse-racing, though they have discharged their debts more honorably than the Marquis of Hastings. The former, a young man, lately came into possession of a fortune of £200,000 a year, and he signalized his accession by immediately offering the odds of £180,000 to £6000 against some particular horse. The liabilities of the latter are unknown, as he lost all the accumulated possessions of his ancestors in an hour, and both of them now find themselves paupers for life when they have little more than attained adolescence. It is against the introduction of such a system here, under the august auspices of Mr. Belmont, that we desire to protest. American racing was all very well when it was confined chiefly to trotting, as it thus raised a useful breed of animals.

"THE WHITE FAWN."

Its First Representation in this City The White Pawn, which was produced at the Chesnut Street Theatre last evening, for the first time, is an anomaly. If there were not so much of the spectacular, it might be classed as an opera bouffe, and if both song and spectacle were eliminated, it would past very well for a broad farce. As it is classification is impossible; and we are forced to unite with the management in styling it a grand spectacular and operatic extravaganza It has a plot which, we are told, is borrowed from a famous French model known as La Biche au Bois. This plot is of the amphibious order, and partakes in its most essential fea. tures of the characteristics of the Naiad Queen and Cinderella, on which have been rung successively the changes of The Black Crook and Cendrition. Ridiculous old mortals like "King Dingdong," and sentimental young mortals like "The Prince Leander," have been rendered familiar to the public in varying phases of their fortunes; while there is nothing of novelty in fairy queens whose realms are located in out-of-the way places beneath the surface of the earth and water. Yet the plot has many novel features, and as it is very perplexing to the beholder, whose fancy is somewhat upset by the gorgeousness of spectacle and ballet, we give its outline for the benefit of those who puzzled their bewildered brains in vain last night, or may be disposed to do so in the

To begin, then, there is a prologue, in which is first presented the exterior of old "Dingdong's" palace. The name of this majestic per sonage is fully expressive of his character and functions. From every point of his variegated robe is suspended a tinkling bell, and when he straightens his well-rounded form and throws his scarlet mantle about his shoulders in mock heroic style, the ear is sainted with a rush of tinkling music. Like kings of fact and fancy be fore 'him, old "Dingdong" has a daughter born unto him, and wishing to intuse her life with a savor of romance, he invites the fairles round about to the baptismal rites, "Aquillina," the watery sovereign of an enchanted lake, is overlooked, and being of an exacting turn of mind, she suddenly starts up and creates no little consternation by asserting that, if the new-born princess is suffered to gaze upon the light of day before her sixteenth | case until the piece is withdrawn.

her. "Dirgdong" sets bis wits to work, and aided oy fairy hands a tower from which the sunshine is excluded rises, as if by magic, and in this the princess is mmured. Divers little sprites and gnomes, with diminutive hods and ploks and saws, assist in its construction, the stage effect being very pleasing-in short, one of the most attractive that we have ever seen in this country. As the gorgeous handlwork of the fairles is revealed by the dissolving of the mists, the curtain falls and the prologue ends.

The second act is of a saffron hue. The yellow kingdom, to which it introduces us, is presided over by 'Queen Saffrontila," a crotenety old lady, whose son and heir, the "Prince Leander," is as slight and as sentimental as need be, "Prince Leander" has long been of a melancholy turn of mind, from gazing on the portrait of the "Princess] Graceful," old "Dingdong's" hopeful heiress, who is still immured in the dark tower. Her saffron majesty gives her consent to his woolng, which necessitates a rupture with the "Princess Aika," Queen of the Etiony Islan I. to whom he has been affianced in early youth. Thereupon "Lord Twaddledum," a model diplomat of the saffron order, is de. puted as envoy to old "Dingdong's" Court Thither he regains, gains the consent of the tinkling king, and starts for the Saffron realm with the "Princess Graceful," closely immure ! in a darkened palanquin. The "Princess Aik " has sworn revenge, and follows up the escort; the palanquin is broken open by "Abdalla," her copper colored enchanter; and, to "Prince Leander's" great grief, his affianced bride is transformed into a White Fawn by the first ray of sunshine which has smitten her delicate form. This melanchely affeir happens just as the Prince, impatient to meet and greet his bride, encounters her escort; but before he can lose much flesh in vain regrets, the fairy "Ruby" comes gallantly to his rescue, and ba stows upon him a tallsmanle ring, by which he is enabled to recall the fawn to her numan form during the watches of the night.

A fawn by day and a languishing damsel by night-not an inexhaustible fountain of joy, certainly, but quits enough to keep a sentimental prince from utter despair. The still unappeased fairy of the lake, however, is not thus to be balked in her purpose. Disguised as a prince of some sort, though evidently no' affiliated with the saffron dynasty, for she appears in brown leggings and blue tunic, while all the fashions of the realm tend to yellow, she turns up in the s firon kingdom and there entices "Finetta," waiting woman to the "Princes, Graceful," to do a deed which none but a lovesick waiting woman would be guilty of. "Lord Twaddledum" has been made custodian of the talismanic ring. Towards him "Finetta" has a yearning, and the wily "Aqualina" promises her success in her woolng if she will but whee ile him out of the ring. 'Finetta," like her betters, is in a bad way, and enters into the plot. By sundry smirks and much esjolery, she gets a chance at "Twaddledum's" little fat hand, withdraws the ring, and in a sudden fit, after giving her lover a ducking in an impromptu bath tub, casts the talisman into the lake.

The second act presents, in the graphic words of "Loid Twaddledum," a "pretty ketale of fish." The "Prince Leand r" and his not overtrusty esquire have plunged bodily into the lake in search of the talisman, and when they gain the bottom they find themselves in the midst of dolphins, crabs, and lobsters, and divers other monsters of a "scaly" cast of countenance. They create a good impression on these fishy creatures, and succeed in regain. ing their sought treasure.

The third act represents the kingdom of "Aika," the ebony queen, and innumerable tribulations which need not be particularized are undergone therein by "Prince Leander" and his companion. Armed with the fairy talisman, all obstacles are eventually overcome. "Aqualina" and "Alka" are outwitted, little by little; the two fairles are brought to an understanding and co operate with each other, when it is found by "Aqualina" that her protege "Aika" is of a bloodthirsty and murderous turn of mind; finally the spell which dooms the "Princess Graceful" to the guise of a fawn by day is broken; and all goes merry as a marriage-bell in the realms of old "Dingdong" and "Saffrontlla."

Fairy justice having been thus tempered with fairy mercy, and human hearts made glad thereby, the closing scene is revealed in the fourth act-a scene of dazzling gorgeousness. styled the "Realms of the Dragon-Fiy." This scene is the grand culmination of the spectacular art, and certainly surpasses anything heretofore witnessed on the American stage A description is impossible-to be appreciated it must be seen.

Interspersed throughout the different acts is the ballet, under the leadership of Bonfanti, Sohlke, and La Petite Schlager, the two first named being strangers to the Philadelphia public. It is unnecessary to particularize the schools of art to which they severally belong Whatever of poetry there is in motion has been carefully studied and is faithfully deploted by them, and to those who admire the muscularity of art they can not but prove an irresistible attraction.

To the ballet, there could be, of course, but few impediments on a first night. But the spectacular and mechanical effects were not so exempt, and the clock marked five minutes past 12 when the curtain fell on the realms of the Dragon Fly. When we remember that the first representation of the piece at Niblo's Garden, New York, occupied the greater portion of the night, the facility and rapidity with which the machinery was manipulated last evening is deserving of commendation. In two or three evenings at the most, all hindrances will doubtless be overcome, and the performance be closed at a seasonable and reasonable hour.

The dramatic cast, which alone remains to be noticed, was unusually good. Miss Fannie Stockton, who has enjoyed an excellent reputation as a vocalist, appeared as "Aqualina," executing several airs very acceptably. Miss Lillie Eldridge, who assumed the character of "Prince Leander," did creditably well, but her voice is rather tame, and did not contrast well with Miss Stockton's Miss Josie Orton, who was uproariously greeted on her reappearance, enacted the part of "Finetta" in a style which has of late become chronic with her. She is altogether too gushing. She understands her art thoroughly, but would profit much by being a little more subdued in both voice and manner. "Dolly" Davenport appeared as "Lord Twaddledum. Esq.," and was entirely unobjectionable, as w # ikewise Mr. J. W. Jennings as "King Dingdong," Mrs. George Boniface as the 'Princess Aika," and Miss Sudlow as the "Princess Graceful," were both careful, the one being a little too languishing and the other a little too

Such is the White Fauen, and it is a success from the first in this city. The managementsupported by the prolific praise of the New York journals, have been extremely profuse in their promises, and the manner in which they have placed the White Foun on the stage, is almost, if not quite a justification. The house was crowded last evening, and such will be the

MAGAZINES .- "Lippincott's," for September, is the best of several numbers. It contains a contr's bution by "Dallas Gaibraith," a poem, "Sorren to," by Bayard Taylor, and a number of pletsantly written sketches. It is lighter than its predecessors and exceedingly readable. Duffield Ashmead sends us "Putnam's" for next month It has two articles of real merit-"French News papers," and "Louis XVII and Eleazer Williams," growing out of the old question of "Have we a Bourbon among us?" It is fully up to the high standard maintained by that

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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